

[CANTON: 1477]

*Upon Some of the Distiches of Cato, in 37 leaves.
Printed by William Caxton.*

*This Cato was translated into Englyshe by
Master Benet Burgh late Archdeacon of Colchester
here and hys Clerk of S. Stephens at Westmestre
whiche full crafty hath made it in Balade Ryal
for the Ednition of my lord Bousher some 40 yeer
at that tyme to my lord the Erle of Eff. sex. and
more. -- (Caxton's prologue to Cato in fol.)*

*But Master Burgh translated it from the ^{and that in folio} Latin: This Translation here in Quarto printed
by Caxton, was also Translated by the
Said Caxton; not from the Latin, but from
a French Translation; as he saies himself
in the same Place,*



Hic Incipit paruus Catho

Om a'duerterem quā hoīes grauiter errare
Whanne I aduerte to my remembrance
And see how sele folkes erren greuouſly
In the Wey of vertuouſe gouernance
I haue ſuppoſed in myn hert that I
Doughte to ſupporte and conſeille prudently
Them to be vertuous in lyuing
And how they ſhal them ſelf in hōnour bring
Igitur fili cariffime docebo te quo pacto mores
Therefore my leue child I ſhal now telle the
Herken me wel the maner and the guyle
How thi ſoule in ward ſhal acquainted be
With theſe good and vertues in al wyſe
Kede and conceiue for he is to diſpiſe
That redith ay and wote not what it ment
Suche reding is no thing but Wynde myſſpen
Itaq; deo ſupplica parentes ama
Pray thy god & preiſe hym With al thy hert
Fader and moder haue ay in reuerence
Loue hym wel and be thou neuer to ſmert
To here men is conſeil but kepe the thyngs

Til thou be cleped be clene Withoutte offence
Salve gladly to hym that is more digne
Than art thy self þ̄ shalt thy place resign
Magistrum metue. Rem tuam custodi
Drede thy maistre thy thing loke þ̄ kepe
Take heed to thyn honshold as loue thy Wyf
Pleasant Wordes out of thi mouth shold cæpe
Be not Iwous kepe thy bestes as thy lyf
Be temperat With Wyne & be not excessif
Thy Wif is Wordes take in noon auctorite
In foly slepe nomore than nedith the
Libros lege libros audi quod legeris memento
In goodly bookes Whilom shalt thou rede
And that thou redest in thy mynde þ̄ shif
Sterre no Wight to Wrath lye not I the rede
Do Wele to god & he wil the este quyte
Be not Wikked ner to the Wikked kint
Stonde in the place of pleting exercise
Deme thy right & be consailed of the Wyse
Twoo lude/aleas fuge/pactū serua
Play With the tope the dises loke þ̄ eschewe
Dispyse noman kepe euer thy besteste
Soorne neuer Breche than shalt þ̄ neuer rewe

Coueyte no man is good speke felle atte felle
Loke thy vengeance be alwey With the leeste
Who hath doon the good haue in remembrance
Loue euery Wight and this shal the auance

Beholde my maistre this litel tretise
Whiche is ful of Wit and sapience
Enforse the this matere to complise
Thinke hit is translated at your reuerence
Enrolle hit therfore in your aduertence
And desire for to knowe What cathon mente
Whan ye it rede let not your hert be thense
but doth as this saith With al your hole entete

Hic finis parui cathonis

Hic Incipit magnus Catho.

I deus est aimus nobis Et carmina dicunt
Hic tibi precipue sit pura mente colendus
For thy that god is in Wardly the Wit
Of man andz gaupth hym vnderstandingz
As dices sayne therfore shalt y vnshet
Thyn hert to thy souuerain lord & kyng
Andz principally a loue al othe thing
Geupng hym laude / honnour & reuerence
Whiche hath the endowd With excellencie
Plus vigila semper ne sompno deditus esto
Nam diuturna quies vixit alimenta ministrat
A Wake my child andz loue no slogardye
In moche slepe loke thou neuer delite
Yf thou purpose to Worship for to stye
Longe slepe & slouth to vice doon men excite
It maketh men dul It makith hem vnperfite
It fosterith vp filthes of the flesshe
It palleth also & wasteth blodis freshe
Virtutem primā puta esse compescere linguam
Proximus ille deo qui scit ratione tacere
Traisteth Welk also the first of vertues alle

Ys to be stille and kepe thy tonge in meWe
Of tonge bntied moche harme may falle
Leue me Wele this is as the gospel treWe
Who that can dela biance of wordes escheWe
And rest With reason this is verrey text
To god alwe that man is al der next
Sperne repugnando tibi tu contrarius esse
Conueniet nulli qui secum diffidet ipse
Aduise the Wele that thou neuer traaverse
Thyn owne sentence for therof sueth shame
Sey not oon and este the contrarie therce
Suche repugnance Wol make thy Worship lame
Where stedfastnesse Wol cause thy good fame
For he shal neuer accorde With man on lyke
That With hym self Wyl ay repugne & stryke
Si vitam inspicias hominem si demus mores
Cum culpas alios nemo sine crimine viuunt
Yf thou aduertise and behold aboute
The lykes of men and maners also
Both of thy self and other the Withoute
In myddelert thou shalt fynde Who
That in some part mys to vertue foo
Blame no man therefore yf you do a right

Sith in erth lakles lineth no Wight
Que nocitura tenes quāuis sint cara relinque
Vtilitas opibus preponi tempore debet
Vf thou suppose thing that shal noye & greue
Thaugh they be dere & right gret of price
Suche as suffreth not thy proffit a cheue
Vf thou lust to be reuled as the Wise
Absteyne the from suche thing in al wyse
For it is more Wisdam in sothfastnesse
To preferre prouffit than suche richesse
Constans et lenis Ut res expostulat esto
Temporibus mores sapiens sine crimine mutat
It is a good lesson for the nones
A Wight to be tempred With constance
And to be glad and mery es tefones
Not alwey sad ne light of contenance
A man is chere may him ful ofte auance
For at yche tyme as the thing requireth
So the Wise man visageth and chereth
Nil temere vxori de seculis crede querenti
Sepe etenim mulier que cōiunx diligit odit
Eys no credence alwey to thy wyf
That for hire Ire and vnpatience

With ſharper tonge than is ſwerd or knyfe
Playneth on thy ſervant though noon offence
Thou fynde in hym lerne wele this ſentence
The Wyf wol hate andz cauſe to ſmert
Oſten hym that hire honſband loueth in hert
Cumqz mones aliquē nec ſe felit ipſe moneri
Si tibi ſit carus noli deſiſtere ceptis

Andz yf thou warne a Wight of his forfeit
al though he grutcheth With frowning cōtenāce
Andz in his langage manace the andz thre
Yet forke theu not for al ſuche diſpleſance
To teche hym to amende his gouernance
As thou legan correcte that is a myſſe
Andz that is a frendly tache I Wyſſe
Contra ſerboſos noli contendere ſerbis
Sermo datur cunctis animi ſapientia paucis

Openſt Woordz folke ay ful of Wynde
Stryke not at al It may not the profite
Suche raſſhe folkes ſey in conceites blynde
The Witles Word a vaileth not a myte
In fele Wordes is ofte Wiſedam ful lite
For vnto euery Wight is gauen ſpeche
Andz yet the Wyſe ful ofte ſey for to ſeche

*Dilige sic alios Ut sit tibi carus amicus
Sic bonū esto bonis ne te mala dāpna sequantur*

Loue other men & haue them so in chere
That to thy self thy loue moost extende
Looke no personne be to the more dere
Than thy self estat for than thou shalt offende
And hurte thy self & other folke amende
But euer cherisse other & loue hem soo
That to thy self thou be founden no foo

*Rumores fuge ne incipias nouus autor haberi
Nam nulli tacuisse nocet nocet esse locutum*
Tydings new that fley as the wynde
Eschewe my chylde With al thy diligence
Be neuer lesy new tydings to finde
Suche nouelte causeth ofte offence
It is no wit It is no sapience
It hurteth not a man to be in pces
But it doth harme to put his tonge in pces

*Rem tibi promissam certam pmittere noli
Rara fides ideo qz multi multa loquuntur*
Make no promise of other men is best
Remembre wel that promisse is vn sure
But yf thou kepe thy name sleest

8
To serue thy behest do thy besy cure
Trust not the Word of euery creature
Some man is feith is esy to breke
For many folkes thinke not as they speke
Cum te aliquis laudat iudex tuus esse memento
Plus alijs de te quā tu tibi credere noli
With Wordes faire Whan faulsel sedith the
Be thou not blinde for his fals flaterye
Late thyn owne reason alwey thy Iudge be
And in effect of thyn estat be hpye
Thaugh faulsel With his crafte wil blinde thyn eye
In al thy lyf thou neuer geue credence
More to thy self than to thy conscience
Officiū alterius multis narrare memento
Atq; alijs cum tu benefecis ipe sileto
Whan thou seest a nother man is deservt
As for his good dedes comendable
In euery place prey or a part
Suche a Wight With thy good Word enable
And thaugh he haue ben by the auaillable
Yet of thy good dede make thou no boasting
And than shal other men thyn name enhaunce
Mutorum cum facta senex et dicta resensu

Fac tibi succurrant iuuenis que feceris ipse
Andz yf y leue longe an old man shalt y be
Age wol approche maugre Who seith nay
Than perceyue lesholde aboute andz see
Holde aged folk ben trected With al day
Andz so pouruey for thy self a say
Into stouping age Whan thou art crept
Thing may y help ym thyn youthe Was kept

Ne curres si quis tacito sermone loquatur
Consciuis ipse sibi de se putat omnia dici
Charge not al thaugth y see men speke softe
Ne change no chere for ofte it is ful bet
In secret Wise to speke than crye on losse
A man sholde see alwey Where he Were set
Andz after that so sholde he speke or let
But to the suspect of harme it semeth
Men speke of hym he noon other demeth
Cum fueris felix que sunt aduersa caueo
Non eodem cursu respondent vltima primis
Whan fortune hath geuen the felicitye
Andz set the on high than be War of a fal
Than sueth ofte suche sharp aduersite
Fals fortune tourneth as doth a hal

In hire trust haue thou no sikernesse at al
Hire perelous play turneth Whilom to grame
For the end is Woo that leganne that game
Cum dubia et fragilis sit nobis Vita tibiuta
In mortem alterius spem tu tibi ponere noli
Our brotel lyf is here so ful of doute
That in ferrey surete no Wight may stonde
So sodenly crepen the soules oute
Al aboute this Worl'd in euery lende
Of yonge and of old for euery Wight is bonde
To deeth therfore set not thyn affiance
In deeth of hym that may y suruiue parchance
Epiquū minus cū det tibi pauper amicus
Accipito placide plene laudare memento
A litel pestre geuen With good intent
Of thy frend that leuith in puerete
With right good chere suche pestre take & hent
Supposing ay that as good Wille hath he
And more than many men that richer be
Peyle not the pestre ne ponde not the prise
The intent is good and that shal the suffise
Infante nudum cum te natura creauit
Paupertatis onus pacienter ferre memento

Sith nature that is thy first norice
Hath brought the hider al naked & bare
Thaugh thou neuer can richesse accomplice
But thou art holde alwey in pouertis snare
Yet no force make neuer to moche care
Take paciently pouerte for the best
Riches is not of nature but of erth encest
Me timeas illam que vite est Ultima finis
Qui mortem metuit qd? viuit perdit idipm
Thaugh deth be the fyn of euery creature
And no Wight on lyue shal from him escape
Yet drede not deth With ouer lesy cure
To lyue on erth It is but a Jape
Vf thou shalt alwey after deth so gape
Thinke Wele to dye but modesye thy thought
Or ellis to lyue a baileth the right noght
Si tibi pro meritis nemo respondet amicus
Accusare deū noli sed teipse coherce
For thy desert yf no frend thanke the
I mene Whan thou hast don thy force & payne
To other folkes frendly for to be
Vf they can not gramercy to the sayne
Withdraue thim hand & so thy self refrayne

Blame not thy god, for thaire Infrondlesse
But for suche men do after Ward the lesse
Ne tibi quid desit quesitis Stere parce
Ut que quod est serues semper tibi desse putato
Sith no richeman that leuith any Where
Yf he consume his goodes al and? Waste
But that pouerte shal greue sore and? dre
Therefore my child suche goodes as thou haste
Let not to sone oute of thy hand krasste
Leest than thy good hereafter Wol the faile
Hold that thou hast It may the este a baile
Quod prestare potes ne bis pmiseris Vlli
Ne sis lentofus dum vis bonus esse videri
Behote no man a thing to lene hym twise
And faile hym oones that is but bilanye
Yf thou may lene do it in frendly wyse
Suche cheuissancc a frend loth to be Wrye
Of thy good dedes clamoure thou not ne crye
Be not Wyndy ner of Wordes brewe
Yf a good man thou lyste appere and? seme
Qui simlat verbis nec corde est fidus amicus
Tu quoq; fac simile sic ars deluditur arte
And? yf thou fynde the sone of doublenesse

The fals dissimilour yf thou espye
With printed Wordes & hert ful of falsnesse
Thou maist in no wise better blyve his pe
Than to serue him With his owne trecherie
With Wordes faire & frendly to departe
Mene thou the same & art begyle by arte
Noli hōes blando nimīū sermone probare
Fistula dulce canit solucem dū decipit auceps
Preue y neuer a man by ouer printed speche
For vnder faire Wordes is ofte annyed gyle
The Word is gay but frendship is to seche
As it is said suche craft is in this yle
Yet sume thynke yf Whan they thair toges file
The Whisteling fouler maketh mery sounge
And so the briddes begyleth he amonge
Cum tibi sint nati nec opes tūc artibus illos
Instrue quo possint inopem defendere vitam
Whan so is that thou hast gotten children
Loke in her youghth than enforme hem soo
In som craft & myster that they may therin
Lerne to gete her lpyuynge & to defende also
Her lyf Whiche euer nedeth & that they vnto
Vertu may atteyne for that he no craft can

Ofte tyme nedeth z is in daunger of auery man
Quod vile est carum quod carum vile putato
Sic tibi nec cupidus nec auarus nosceris Vlli

Haue this conceit for it is ofte sene
Thing dere bought ful ofte late of price
Andz thinges that litel of valeu bene
In tyme compynge may to greet derth arise
Remembre wele this andz it ay aduertise
Thus shalt þ best the name of chyncherie fleme
Andz othe men shal the no nyggard deme

Que culpare soles ea tu ne feceris ipse
Turpe est doctori cum culpa redarguit ipm
Aduise the wele lete reason be thy gyde
Whan othe folkes thou art a route to blame
That suche default in the be not espied
For yf it be than shalt thou haue the shame
A mannes honnour suche thing wol reclame
It is ful foule Whan a man wol teche
Yf that his dedes agemst his wordes preche
Quod iustū est petito vel quod videatur honestū
Nam stultū est petere quod possit iure negari
Loke thy desir be grounde of right
Andz than that it neuer trauerse honeste

For as often tymes as any Wordly Wight
Desireth more than right or equite
Than may his request sone replied be
And it is cleped nyete and gret folye
To aske ofte that right Wol ay denye
Ignotum tibi tu noli preponere notis
Cognita iudicio constant incongnota casu
Change not a frend that thou knowest of old
For any newe in trust that thou shalt finde
A better than he but in thy handes thou hold
Hym that hath len to the frendly & kynde
For suche eschanges len ofte ful blynde
The semith thou knowest neuer a dele
To knowe a trusty frend It is casuele
Cum dubia in certis versetur vita periculis
Pro lucro tibi pone diem quicūq; laboras
Sith that mans lyf is ofte ful of miserie
Whilom in myrth and after in mischief
Now in the valey & now in the hille on hye
Now is man pure & after by riches in relief
The shynnyng morowe hath ofte a stormy eue
To this polcie take heed at the last ende
Haue lucre for thy labour er that thou Wende

Vincere cum possis interdum cede sodali
 Obsequio quin dulces retinentur amici
 Though thou may ouercome & haue the Victorpe
 Of thy frend or felowe yet ay forkeere
 Refrayne thy self and be not haute or hye
 Troues handes ful euil do greue and dere
 Where easy softnesse frendes may conquere
 For by good dedes set in lowlynesse
 Men ben to geder knit in frendlinesse
 Ne dubites cū magna petas impendere parua
 His etem rebus coniungit gracia caros
 The limitour that visitith the Wyues
 Ye Wyse ynoogh of hym a man may lere
 To yue neldes pynnes gi:deles and knyues
 The craft is good thus doth the Wyse frere
 Naueth thingz smale for thingz that ben dere
 If thou receyue euer yue thou sumwhat a geyn
 And that wol ay noyssh the lose in certein
 Item inferre caue cum quo tibi gracia iuncta est
 Ira odium generat concordia nutrit amorem
 To ple not ne strike with hym þ is thy frend
 Be ware of that make neuer thy frend thy fo
 A toylous man may frendship breke & shend

Thise barabours that ben miscreuled so
Interupte hem self & Wrappen in moche wo
For Wilked Wrath engendreth but hate
Where as good accord norisse the loue algate
Seniour ob culpam cum te dolor forget in iram
Ipse tibi moderate tuis ut parcere possis
Whan thy seruant thou takest in defaute
Thaugh he can not his negligencce excuse
Yet in thim I re make not to fere a saute
But With thy male talent take trauise
So shalt thou finde ease this fet yf thou vse
Reule thy passion ande ay by such measure
That thou saue hem that ben vnder thy cure
Quem superare potes interdum vince ferendo
Maxima etenim moris semper paciencia virtus
Sufferance doth ease Was seid longe agoon
Suffre thou & haue al thim entent
Thaugh al thou maist ouer yet do y not so
Conquere by sufferance ande be pacient
But for to folowe cruel te neuer consent
For it is cleped a vertue With excellencce
A Wight to lyue in humble paciencie
Conserua pacius que sunt iam parati labore

Cum labor in dampno crescit mortalis egestas
 Be not to skant ner be not to prodigal
 Conserue thy thinges gotten With trew labour
 It is ful faire to be called liberal
 But ay eschewe Wast and be not surfetour
 Consume not al thy tresour in oon hour
 Whan of thy labour ysseth noon a baile
 Nedes puerte must the in hast assaile
 Dapilis interdum notis caris et amicis
 Cum fueris felix semper tibi pprimus esto
 Be thou not like scnola for he wolde etc
 With enery man and at his fest hym fede
 But neuer no man might taste of his mete
 Ner no wight to him come but he to al men yede
 Be fre of thy mete but loke that larges lede
 The no fether than thou may easly ateyne
 he ouer thin owne fred thus caton scith certeyne
 Take hede sire and see howe holsumly this clerik
 Entretith men With vertuous doctrine
 The first part of this compendious Werk
 In worship howe they shul ful clerely shyne
 Euydynge to renelle streight as a lyne
 Whis preceptis to obserue yf that ye lyst

And to his conseil your hertis to enclpne
Right in your age ful Wele It shal be Wiste
The vertuous fourme ymen shul fort consey
So in this lyf as bridel doth a best
That man do not erre here in this pilous wey
Stablisthing him as doth a stedfast arest
And as siker guydes that men Worthiest
Mannes leuing here to set in gouernance
This sage cathon putteth in remembrance

Incipit secundus liber

Elluris si forte felis cognoscere cultus
Virgiliū legito qd si mage nosce laboras
Herbarz vires mater tibi carmine dicet
Yf thou lust my child set thy hert ly delit
Of erth to knowe the tilth & the culture
And yf thou wilt be of knowleche parfit
Why sume is erable & sume eke pasture
Why sume is freshe lyke floures of picture
I conseile the to studie sadly for a while
In the laureat poete grete Virgile
Si romana cupis et punica noscere tella

Lucanū querax qui martis pelia dicat
 And thou haue desirous fresshe courage
 To here of romaines noble Worthinesse
 Howe they exynquissed them of cartage
 And many other thurgh manly prowesse
 Than rede lucan ful wele can he expresse
 Who bare hym best in to wne and also in fel'd
 And who did meruayles vnder martes sheld
 Si quis amare libet sed discere amare legendo
 Nasonem petito sin aut cura tibi hec est
 And who that lust eke of louers for to rede
 And in what wise hym self for to auance
 As in that craft naso can teche hym for to spede
 For summe loue song. harp. pipe. and dance
 Summe in redingz & other thingz of pleasance
 Summe leuyn couertly eke & lust not he espiede
 And summe wol'd seknowen thus writeth ouide
 Ut sapiens uiuas audi que discere possis
 Per que semetum vicijs deducatur eum
 But yet my les chil'd yf that in auenture
 Thyng hert be geuen to noon suche maner thing
 Or that it be not vnto thy plaisure
 That virgil maer lucan. or naso doth bringe

Yet that y may be Wise after in thy leynge
If thou lust to me to geue audiencc
I shal shewe the doctrine of sapience
Ergo ades que sit sapiencia discere legendo
Therefore my child come nere to me & lere
And I shal the shewe the verray treasure
Of sapience yf the lust to herken and here
And ek how thou shalt in good estat endure
And lere thy lyf holy after goddis plesure
Therefore approche & lere this reding
To be a man ay vertuous of leynng

Si potes ignotis caia prodesse memento
Utilius est regno meritis adquirere amicos
There is no wight that fether may reporte
Of thy good dedes than the stranger may
Make him ay good chere & shewe him disporte
And he shal With honour utter y this no nay
For y unknowen It proffitteth sūtime tassel
Frendes y nowbe to haue It is a better thing
Than is frendles any man to be a king
Mitte arcana dei celum inquirere quid sit
Cum sis mortalis que sunt mortalia cura
Of goddis misterie & ek of his worthing

Make neuer my child to fer inquirance
 It is folp any man to muse on fuche thing
 Dispute thou neuer vpon thy goddes purueance
 For al thing must be vnder his gouernance
 And sith thou art man clad in mortalite
 Dispute thou of thinge fuche as mortal be
Enique metum leti nam stultū est tpe in eum
Qui mortem metuit amittit gaudia vite
 The drede of deth that is mordermate
 I mene to drede it ay and neuer to cese
 Be ware of that I conseille the algate
 For this is trew as the gospol doutlese
 Who that dredith deth is alwey myrthlese
 Whan drede of deth any man so aggrugeth
 He wasteth his tyme & ay his lyf abreggeth
Iratius de re incerta contendere noli
Impedit ira animū ne possit cernere verum
 For thinge that is vnto the vncertayne
 Whan thou art wroth loke neuer that y strue
 But first y oughdest to knowe y mater plaine
 For there is no perfonne oonly on erth a lyue
 But that he onsaule is also blyue
 As besy Wrath hath kindled hym on fire

Ande than can he not deme the trowth for Jre
Fac sumptū propeere cū res desiderat ipsa
Dandū etem est aliquid cū tēpus postulat à res
As time requireth so make ay thyn expence
Mesure thyn hand ek after the profecce
Of thing of tyme & also of the presence
So that thou spende nomore than nedith the
Ande that spende loke that thyn hert be fre
A man shold do kost & make his spending
Cōsiderig y tyme & ek of his costis rewaridig
Quod nimū est fugito paruo gaudere memento
Tuta magis puppis modico que flumine fertur
To moche is noght of any manere thing
The mene is good ande moost comendable
That man stādeth surest here in this leuing
With mene estat that holdeth him greable
Plente ande pouerte to gedre be not suffrable
For than is the ship in the see moost surest
What tyme the flode is moost demurest
Quod pudrat socios prudens celare memento
Ne plures cul pant id quod tibi displicet Dm
If y knowe aught y may turne in to shame
Kepe it secret ande for no thing it be wrpe

Be neuer to kesy suche thingz to proclame
Or puplisse as thou knowest Wol repye
Make not almen to gaurey on it andy cry
Lest y men dāpne y to other folkes ynknowe
For suche fals demers thou maist finde ynowe
Molo putes prauos hoies peccata lucrari
Temporibus peccata latent et tpe patent
If thou espie andy see or perceiue a forfaiture
Andy eli a shrewde of misgouernance
Truste welk that sumtyme shal come an heure
Whan for his dedes he shal suffre penance
A cursedy dede asketh wreche andy vengeance
Thaugh Wilkednesse for the tyme he kept sece
Yet atte last it Wol discouered be
Corporis exigui vires contempnere noli
Consilio pollet cui Vim natura negauit
Thaugh sumtyme nature hath ben ynkynde
Andy gayth a man to be of smal stature
Yet remembre my child & haue in thy mynde
That thou neuer dispise that creature
For god may sende hym fortune & lene bre
Andy ofte they be With good conseil alied
To whom nature hath gret strengthe denyed

Quem scieris nō esse parem tibi tempore cede
Victorem a Victo superari sepe Videmus

Whan thy hap is to trauerse & haue a do
With him that is noght egal to thy might
Thyn uttermost power shewe not suche vnto
Lest that oftesones he haue the in like plight
For it is often seyn in batayl & in fight
Fortune changeth ofte Withyn oon our
And he is scornfild that Was erst Victour

Aduersus notum noli cōtendere verbis
Eis minimis verbis interdū maxima crescit
Of brondes smale he made fires grete
Withdraue the brondes the fire shal decrese
Agem the hyper lōke thou not plete
With Wordes fele for Wordes discord thy pefe
The man is Wise thyn can of Wordes ase
For this is as truly soth as god gaf lyp
That Wordes smale breeden ful moche stryf

Quod deus intendit noli perquirere forte
Quod statuit de te sine te deliberat ipse
Sele not With magikie ner With sorcerie
In goddes hand is al fortune & fate
Be not aboute to calke by destenpe

Whether thou be miserable or fortunate
 Lete god a lone in hym is al thyng estate
 For What hym list of the to purpose
 Withoute the he can ful Wele dispose
Inuidiam nimio cultu vitare memento
 Que si non ledat tamen hanc sufferre molestum
 Beware ay of enue With tatches felle
 Withyn thyng hert loke ay that she ne rest
 For it is oon of the chief pines of helle
 Whan she sojourneth Withyn a man is best
 Than breenneth feny in hire owne nest
 And than she may noon other man mische
 Yet ethna asith not hire self to greue
Esto forti animo cum sis dampnatus inique
Nemo diu gaudet qui iudice vincit iniquo
 Enforce thyng hert With manly sufferance
 Thagh that fals Juggement a geyn the pcede
 Be thou not a kasshed in word ne contenance
 For ofte times y fals oppssour may reule & lede
 The labe but truste me Wele Withouten drede
 Longe to reioyse a cheke he may nat
 Whiche by mones vntrewe his goodis so gat
Nec te collaudes nec te cul paueris ipse

Hoc faciunt stulti quos gloria dixat iamis
Thy self also loke thou not preise
Ner dispreise but let thou other men alone
Alwey after prudence thy wordes preise
For thim auant honour shalt thou gete none
But haue a moli as sone as thou art gone
A man to preise him self as seith the scole
Or dispreise moche is token of a fole

Litis preterite noli maledicta referre
Post inimicitias iram meminisse maloz est
Wrath of old þ shold be kept oute of mynde
Be thou not aboute to make it on lyue
But the enuious hath ay a tatche of lynde
Suche malice my chil'd loke þ neuer reuiue
For suche malice of old Wrath maketh a striue
And? Who remembreth of d enemye
A Wilked man forsoth is he

Utere quesitis modice cū sumptus habundat
Lakitur exiguo quod partū est tempore longo
Whan it is tyme of cost and? grette expense
Be war of wast & spende ay by mesure
Who that to kepe or spende hath no difference
Maketh his goodes may not longe endure

For the old proverbe saith mesure is treasure
Remember that sone thy goodes may slip a way
That before were gotten in many a sondry day
Incipiens esto cum tempus postulat aut res
Stulticia similare loco prudentia summa est
It is no wisdom a man alwey to be sage
But sumtyme to be nyce and seme folpe
Who that hath this fet shal finde advantage
Whan tyme and thing desireth that espye
And than dissimile that is gret pollece
For sumtyme to be yn wise by apparence
Among the wise is clyped hye prudence
Luxuriam fugito simul et vitare memento
Crimen auaricie nam sunt contraria fame
The filthy fleshe meupng the bestial
That fighteth ay a gem the soule within
By force of hire attisment liberal
Eschewe my chil'd and kepe the from hire gyn
That art and grace ben set ful fer a twayn
And eschewe ay of auarice the disliked fame
Thise tbo they ben that causen euil name
Noli tu quedā referenti credere semper
Exigua ē tribuēda fides qz multa multa loqūtur

Be leue þ not lightly in euery wightis salbe
For sume reporten thing al oþer wyse
Than it was euer thought or don or salbe
And some haue it also of custume & of guise
To fede folk With flatering and lyes
Therefore gaue litel trust to suche feire speking
For many folkes speke vntrewe thing

Quod potu peccas ignoscere tu tibi noli

Nam nullū cūnen vni sed culpa bilentis

If thou surfete in drink forgete þ not that
Adwise the welc eft thou come not in þ snare
Withdraue thyn hād feð not thy throt to fat
Drinke that sufficeth the & ell loke þ spare
To moche drink maketh men of Wit ful bare
And yet the Wyne therof is not to blame
To blame is the drinker þ makith hym lame

Consilium archamū tacito cōmitte sodali

Corporis auxilium medico cōmitte fideli

To thy trusty frend that is secret to the
Shewe thy conseil & thy need welvrie
For a trusty frend is the chest of priuite
But it is gret hap suche frendes to espye
Erpe oute oon among al a compayne

And of thy body betake thou al the cure
Vnto suche a leche that is trusty and sure
Successus indignos noli tu ferre moleste
Indulget fortuna malis ut ledere possit
With thy self a greue the neuer to fore
Thaugh thing a mys sumtyme betyde
Eif may the not in lesy wyse therfore
For thyn auenture nedes thou must abide
Ifortune may not alwey be on thy syde
With harmes to greue ay in wayte lith she
To ref men welth honnour and prosperite
Prospice qui veniūt hos casus esse ferendos
Nam leuius ledit quicquid p̄uidimus ante
In thyn owne self compice aboute ay before
Thing to perceiue that after wol fal
It noieth not ner greneth not half so fore
That is a fore seen as other thing shal
Sodein chaunces diseasith moost of al
It hurteth ay lesse and is in better plight
Where a man prudently can haue a fore sight
Rebus in aduersis animū submittere noli
Spem retinere spes vna animū nō morte relinqt
Whan diuers thinges trauesse thyn entent

And thou art wrapped in aduersite
For Wanthope loke thou be not lost ne shent
Lette neuer dispaire thy Wit beue the
But abide the tyme that better shal be
Hope is she that shal make the a seth
Hope leueth not a man til man leue the breth
Rem tibi quā noscis aptam dimittere noli
Fronte capillata post hec occasio calua
Whan men profite than is tyme to reteine
Take ay thing While they len in season
Many profite now that after Wol reftre
For y is plente now Wol after Ward be geson
Therefore take ay in tyme for so cōsciently reson
For y kyled hed Was sumtyme ful of herys
Whiche is now bare Withoute rasure or sherys
Quod sequitur specta qd̄ iminet ante videto
Illum imitare deū qui partē spectat vtramq̄
Provide thy self and haue deliberance
By likly coniecture What Way be tide
Aduertise my child in thy remembrance
Afore and after aboute on euery side
Folowe that god Wol & lete him be thy guyde
Whiche hath al thing oonly in his gouernement

Fortune feture andz puste & al that is p̄sent
Fozior St valeas interdum parciōr esto
Pauca soluptati debentur plura saluti

It is a tatche of a deuouryng honde
To receyue superfluyte andz wele exesse
Til his receit a gein from hym rebonde
Contente thy nature & fle ay from greedinesse
Foule lustes ay kepe vnder fote andz repressse
Fede not thy lust With al that she wol craue
Vf that in helth the lust thy lyf to haue
Sic tibi precipue qd̄ primū est cura salutis
Tempora ne culpes cum sint tibi causa doloris
Take good hede eke of thyn owne estate
To reule thy body wele With good dicte
In tyme but lolie thou be not at delate
Thurgh thyn owne reule andz surfete
Thaugh sickness & sorowe haue yeue the an hete
The tyme is goodz andz no d̄esmale ther is
But yf men it make for that they don a mys
Sompnia ne cures nam mens humana qd̄ optat
Cum vigilat sperat p̄ sompnum cernit idipm
Drede thou no dremes so seith deutronomye
Foz ofte they be causedz of diuers complexion

Some of ymaginacions & many a nice fantasie
Or ellis of blode or of superflue replecion
For dreames ben ofte deceit & fals illusion
Whan they be wakynge they desire & thynke
Upon that thing they dreame Whan they wylke
Judiciū populi nūquā cōtempneris vniū
Ne nulli placeas dū his cōtempnere multos
Whan that a multitude hath paue a decree
Or concluded ought a gein thing entent
Trauerse yet neuer a yemst the comente
For yf thou do thou shalt be sore shent
Dispyse y not a loone the peoples Juggement
In auenture thou please of hem not oon
Whiles thou woldest trauerse hem euerychon
Mufeth a While Wyt al thise maters more
Abideth fire and goode no further yet
For to rede them vyleth not a lene
To no man but be the kernel ynkinet
Therefore al your hert & al your minde ynshet
And loke what lieth vnder the hoistous rinde
And I dar sey of Wisdame and of Wit
Plente & fopson therein shal ye fynde
Refressith your spirites With this holson dicte

That fostreth vertues and kepith a lyue
 To your personne me thinketh ful mete
 For to receyue suche a ioyful nutretif
 Whiche your estat shal ay preserue in lyf
 In gret honnour & kepe you from noyance
 Out of the daunger of Vices infectyf
 Yf ye Wirche after this ordenance
 And in especial loke that your dede
 May bere trew Witnesse and testifye
 The maters that ye beholde and rede
 Loke hem With your hert as wel as With your eye
 And than dar I say sumwhat ye shal espye
 In this Werk that shal meue your corage
 Wherefore your hert your eye & your spirite applie
 Your self ay to reule after thise dedes sage

Incipit liber tercius

Oc quicūq; felis carmen cognoscere lector
 Hec p̄cepta feres que sunt gratissima vite
 Loo What Wight that lusteth hym for to rede
 In this my dicte sumwhat shal he finde
 Wherewith he may his soule fostre and fede

With vertue and; it from vices vnbinde
Come nere my chil'd therefore & haue in mynde
Suche doctrine in thyn hert to lere a wey & lere
As to thy self here after shal be les & dore
Instrue preceptis aim ne discrete cesses
Nam sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis ymago
Mannes soule resembleth a newbe plam table
In Whiche yet apperith to sight no picture
The philisophre saith Witheuten fable
Right so is manes soule but a dedly figure
Vnto the tyme she be reclaimed With y lure
Of doctrine and; so gete hir a good habit
To be expert in cūpnng science & profit
Interpone tuis interdum gaudia curis
Vt possis animo quēuis sufferre laborem
Who that laketh rest may no while endure
Therefore among take ease and; disport
Delite the neuer in greet besinesse & cure
But that Whilom thou maist also resort
To playes recreacions and; al other comfort
Than shalt thou better laboure atte longe
Whan thou hast mirth thy besinesse amonge

Cum recte dicas ne curas verba malorum
 Arbitri nostri non est quod quisque loquatur
 If thou lyue iustly ay kepe thy right
 Neuer declining for mede lucre drede or fauour
 Treuly than stādest thou in a fulhol some plight
 Thagh men maligne y With wordes of rigour
 If thou lyue thus thy good lyf is thy tour
 We may not let the people to gaure & crye
 But do yet wel thagh they missey or lye
 Productus testis saluo tamen ante pudore
 Quantūcumque potes celato crimine amica
 Sone yf thou be called the soth to testifie
 Euermore saupng thy worship & honeste
 Thy frendes trespass be not aboute to be wyte
 Where as no shame thereof may growbe to the
 This requireth ay good friendship parde
 In wel and the trewe beneuolence
 Betwix folkes is friendship in assistance
 Sermones blandos blesos qz cauere memento
 Simplicitas viri sana est fraus ficta loquendi
 Make hys wache kepe wel thy soule algate
 Beholde wisely aboute & spy thy couert trayne
 When that fals fauel knokketh at thy pate

He menyth gile thaugth outwarde he faire sein
 For he can anoynte bothe thyn eres & wayne
 With the oile of plaisance in ful greet foison
 But yet vnder pkepe y bele from this prison
 Segmiciem fugito que vite ignavia fertur
 Nam cu aimus languet cofumit merca corpus
 Slouth & No gardy andy dul Jaelnesse
 Andy lachesse that causeth to be negligent
 Enforce y ay to eschewe With al thy besynesse
 For Jael soule maketh thy body shent
 Truly ther is in erth no gretter argument
 For to conclude thy mortal body vnapte
 Than the soule in Jaelnes to be wrapte
 Comoda multa feras sin autē spreueris illud
 Non me scriptorem s te neglexeris ipse
 Enprunte my teching in thy soule stedfast
 Andy ful profitable thou shalt it fynde
 Forsake it not ner fro thyn hert it caste
 For yf that thou exclude oute of thy mynde
 This lesson thou art ful bareyn & blynde
 From vertues & therfore Wite not me
 Sitthen the default my sene is than in the
 Alterius diau aut factu ne carperis vnguā

Wedde not a Wyf for hire inheritance
 For she Wol cast it often in thy berd
 And yf she be nopynt and ful of greuance
 Constraine hire neuer to abide in thy perd
 Of chastisement It is a cursed swerd
 To kepe suche oon that Wol ay a wyte
 For he is at ease that of suche oon is quyte
Mul torz disce exemplo que facta sequaris
Que fugias Vita nobis est aliena magistra
 Of other men thou shalt thy myrrour make
 Cōfourme the to that that moost men appreue
 What thou shalt do & What thou shalt forsake
 A better fet maist thou not controue
 Than to other men is dedes releue
 In al that pertaineth to thy techyng
 Make of other men a reule of thy leuyng
Quod potes id tempta operis ne pondere pressus
Succumbat labor et frustra temptata relinquoas
 Accepte no thing that surmounteth thy myght
 Nor that to finishke thou maist not achue
 For than standest thou foule in thyn owne sight
 ouer his puer What man that lusteth meue
 With shame his Werke must nedes take leue

It is folp a man fuche Werkes to be gygne
Whiche to perfourme his power is to thymme
Quod nosci factum non recte noli filere
Ne videare malos imitari Belle tacendo
Lalbe prefumeth that What man kepith stille
The crime of oon that hath doon gret offence
Andz difcouerid hit not he is than jlle
As the criminous for kepynge of his fcilence
Therefore my fone bringe it m to audiance
That thou perceiueft not Bele don is
Lest for fcilence men deme of the a mys
Judicis auxilium sub iniqua lege rogato
Ipfe etem leges cupiunt vt jure regantur
Whan the lalbe is ftrait andz rigorous
Entrete ay the Jugge to do the fauour
Enclinyng him for to be gracious
Jfor an egal Jugge may thy caufe ay focour
Andz yet the lalbe fhall be his gouernour
Whiche oweth fumtyme to modifie
As in cas he may a point afpie
Quod merito pateris patienter ferre memento
Cumqz reus tibi fis ipm te iudice dampna
What peine thou fuffreft for thy defert

Receyue it ay Wele in gree and patience
Al though thy trespass be prync and couert
Yet Whan thou Weyes it in thy aduertence
That thou art blemished in thy conscience
With in thy self make thou an arbitrement
Dempnyng thy self in thy owne Iuggement
Multa legas facito plectis plege multa

Nam miranda canūt sed nō credenda poete
Mispende thou no tyme neuer for lackesse
But Whilom rede in lookes of dy and Wise
Rece and reporte eke With greet attentifnesse
By rednyng to cūnyng a man may ryse
Than rede my sone and cūnyng accomplise
Thyse poetes Wryten thing of greet meruaile
And eke of smale credence ofte this is no faile

Inter conuiuias fac sis sermone modestus
Ne dicare loquax dum vis brachius haleri
Euermore amonge frondes sitting atte fest
Be thou curteys and demeure of thy langage
Who þ speket moost is not counted Wise
For of fleshe & bone nature hath made a cage
The tonge to kepe that she be not outrage
Than yf thou Wil be preferred of nature

Refrayne thy tonge With al thy besy care
Coniugis irate noli tu verba timere
Nam lacrimas struit insidias dū femina plorat
Some Wōmen Wepyn of pure feminite
Whan other Wise they can not thaire entent
Acheue but yet be War of suche nyce pite
Thy manly reason for that be not blent
For suche Weping thy hert aught neuer relent
Some Wōmen of kynde be euer Wepinge
And vnder that they can bothe pryli & synge
Vtere quesitis sed ne videaris abuti
Qui sua cōsumūt cum deest aliena sequuntur
Whan thou hast gotten to thy Worship vs
What a haileth richesse With oute honour
To spende ay good & Worship to refuse
Yes no point of proffit ner of socour
Therefore that y hast gotten With trew labour
Consume not in mysuse lest thou doo a mys
Oft be nedith of other y Wasted hath his
Fac tibi p penis mortem nō esse timendam
Que bona si nō est finis tamen illa bonoz
Enprynte my child ay hertly in thy mynde
That thou be not of deth so fore a drad

Exemplo simili ne te derideat alter

It is ful hard to please euery Wight
Displease the of no manere dedes ner them lark
Ner thaire Wordes neither for euen so right
As thou displeased them behinde thy back
Right so Wol men make the a moli & knak
For the contrarie though men had it sworn
The scorner shal be guerdoned ap With scorn
Quod tibi fors dederit tabulis suprema notato
Augendo serua ne sis quem fama sequatur
Whan thy last fort that men callen fate
Is good & pleasant after thyntent
This mene I lo Whan thou art fortunate
Reorde al thy goodes that god hath the sent
And suffre hem not relesly to be spent
For than of a wastour thou shalt haue y name
For gret riot wol cause thy feble fame
Cum tibi diuicie superant in fine senectate
Munificus facito diuas no parcus amicis
Into gret age what tyme that thou art crept
And hast richesse prosperite & gret habundance
Be liberal than of y goodes y a fore y hast kept
Thinke Wele thou hast ynozh and suffisance

Let neuer thy good of the haue gouernance
But gouerne & departe it ay With thy frend
For Whā þy goost hēns jt may not With þy Ward
Vtile consiliū dominus ne despice serui
Nullius sensum si p̄dest cōtempseris Vnquam
Grace is pouen to man in many sondry Wise
Some haue Wisedam & some haue eloquence
The pure folkes also some tyme be ful Wise
A seruant sūtyme may be ek of gret sapience
E haugh al he be had in litel reuerence
Reuerde his Wit yf it be Worth the While
For Vertu is hid Vnder many an habit Vile
Rebus et in sensu si nō est quod fuit ante
Fac viuas cōtentus eo qd̄ tempora present
This Worlde's Welth ebbing & flowing ay
At no certē is like as Bankle aprile
E haugh thou haue losse þy shalt not þy dismay
Be content With that þy hast for the While
Some mā ther is þy hath neither crosse ne pile
Now in his Ward & yet right good auenture
Vs him ful negh no man may knowe his bre
Vporem fuge ne ducas sub noīe dotis
Nec retinere felix si cepit esse molesta

Whiche shal the from Wretchednesse Enbynde
 Where in thy lyf so longe thou hast forth lad
 A lyf pauenture to god and man ful lad
 The Whiche thaughe she be not to al pffitable
 Yet she maketh an end bothe of lad & able
Proris linguam si frangi est ferre memento
Namq; malum nil Belle pati nec posse taceri
 Thy Wykes Wordes thou suffre & take in gre
 Whan it a daileth for letyde it may
 Ful ofte that of grete prudence is she
 And moost to be allowed this is no nay
 Suffre hire than and hire conceit assay
 For it is hard Whan thou can not be stille
 Mer yet to suffre hire thou can eke haue Wille
Dilige nō egra caros pietate parentes
Nec matrem offendas dum Vis bonus esse parenti
 Goodes that ben geuen the of nature
 They come to the of thy progenitours
 Therfore my child With al thy force & cure
 Loke thou loue hym and cherissh at al hours
 For they fostred y & kept in youth from shours
 Thy moder my dere child yet in especial
 Of thou do Welc neuer offende at al

Reforthe reforthe and hiderward the reue
 My maistre now here is an hol some cire
 For your a while to this place retreue
 Where as for moralite sprigging floures feire
 And sote ful pleasantly do the repire
 Gader of hem and make a chaplet or a gay
 And rest y a while here right in this her here
 Beholde wele & see what thing is to your pay

Incipit liber quartus

Eauram quicūq; cupis deducere vitam
 Nec vicijs herere aim que moribus obfunt
 What wight that lust to lyue in sekernesse
 His lpf & his soule to kepe from incūbrance
 Of vices the whiche & good thewes expresse
 Be ay at stryf come nere & geue attendance
 Thise preceptis kepe wele in remembrance
 Enrollmg hem and printmg in your mynde
 And so to lyue the mones shal ye fynde
 Despicte diuicias si vis aio esse beatus
 Quas qui suscipiunt medicant semp auari
 The foule talent of riches my chil d eschew:

And resemble thou neuer greedy tantalus
 Whos etyke in hunger is alwey newbe
 Amonge the feire apples delicious
 No Water swete quechith his thrust right thus
 To vilaynes Walowe of couetise
 Loo al this Worl'd noght can ner suffice
 Comoda nature nullo tibi tempore deerunt
 Si contentus eo fueris qd postulat vsus
 With resonable fedynge be thou content
 As in diete a man shold neuer ouer charge
 Hym self for With surfet many men ben hent
 For thaire recites ben to grete and large
 Men seen al day that litel botte or large
 Wol dranche a noon Whan it is ouer freight
 Chrisshe euer nature With none ouer weight
 Cum sis incautus nec rem ratione gubernas
 Noli fortunā que non est dicere ceam
 Of thy thyng the happe to misgouerne
 Withoute reason or any prouidence
 Than myn owne childe of me this lesson lerne
 Say not It was by fortune suche expense
 To make but Wite it thyne owne negligence
 For fortune may neuer compelle the

Thy good to spende but at thy libertie
 Dilige denariū sed parca dilige formam
 Quā nemo sanctus nec honestus captat habere
 Loue thou the peny as for thy cheuisance
 Not for the quoyne to horde it vpon hepe
 For of the prince Was made the ordonance
 Not for ny cofres It shold be stille & lepe
 But yit shold ay stere among y people & lepe
 In their eschange & Who that kepith it Ime
 As for the fourme is ay soubget to synne
 Cū fueris lecuples corpus curare memento
 Eger diues habet nūmos s̄ nō habet ipsum
 Whan thou hast plente and art peccunia!
 I mene Whon thou hast grette suffisance
 Of money forson and help but smal
 Than spende thy money & thy self auance
 Repe neuer the coyne and lyue in greuance
 The sike hath siluer in ful gret exesse
 But of him self he hath no sikernesse
 Verū cū tuleris discens aliquādo magistri
 Fer patris imperiū cū verbis erit in iram
 Though sumtime y suffice the gret shrapnes
 Of beying yet ay thy maistres chastisement

Take Wele in gre With humble lowlines
 Sith it is don but al in good intent
 In cause to lerne and? Wisedam for to hent
 Al thaught his wordes folwe ful of Tre
 Yet suffre thou the talent of that fire
 Res age que psumt rursus vitare memento
 In quibus error inest nec spes est certa laboris
 Also my chil'd thou shalt the ay occupie
 To wirke thingz that ben proffitable
 But loke thou neuer thy Wittes applie
 To thinges that may not be available
 To kepe a thing that is not pffitable
 By Wit or strengthe It is gret errour
 Dispaired hope is the end of suche labour
 Quod donare potes gratis concede roganti
 Nam recte fecisse bonis in parte lucosum est
 Whan þu shalt geue than geue in frendly wyse
 Frendly contente thou a praier or a request
 For thing payen by tyme is payen twise
 Suche gladfome here makith yestes richest
 Who that payeth gladly & sone payeth is best
 Loo no thing better may thing conquere
 Than a man to lene that he may forðere

Quod tibi suspectū est cōfestim discute quid sit
Namq; solent primo que sūt neglecta nocere
Whan vpon a thmg thou hast a coniecture
As in thy conceit holding in suspect
To discoure that a noon do thy cure
For at the first Whan suche thing is reiect
That shold selve after is easy to correct
A thmg that at the first is noght set by
Vs often tymes sene to greue finally
Cum te detineat Veneris dampnosa voluptas
Indulgere gule noli que Ventrīs amica est
And Whan thou art disposed inwardlye
To Venus actes than oppresse thy corage
Suffre not thy flesshe than to lustlye
For grete dicte maketh thy flesshe outrage
Where as mesure might causen it to aswage
And gloteny is cleped the chief promettee
Leding the flesshe ay to Wantonesse & Vice
Cum tibi pponas aīalia cuncta timere
Vnū precipue hōiem plus esse timendum
The rampant Lyon and the tigre felle
The iuous bore the hōūde ful of enuie
And many moo lesis thā here nedith to tell

Men drede[n] ful fore & eke thaire tyrannye
 And wel they do but yet oon best espye
 That is a fore al oth[er] moost especial
 Man is the best that thou moost drede shal
 Cum tibi preualide fuerint in corpe vires
 Et ac sapias atq[ue] sic tu poteris vir fortis haberi
 The vertue that is called fortitude
 Stondeth al in the strengthe bodely
 As to be auous mighty stronge & rude
 But in the soule It must be sikerly
 Neuertheles yf thou wilt thy soule fortifye
 And hym within a queinte With sapience
 Truly than shalt thou be stronge in existence
 Auxilium a notis petito si forte laboras
 Nec quisquā melior medicus quā fidus amicus
 What thing in erth that y[ou] shalt take on honde
 And thy support shal be in frendlinesse
 No strange wight on lyue so negh y[ou] wol stonde
 As thy knowen frend my chil'd this is expresse
 Of the stranger hast thou no siker nesse
 For Whan al oth[er] ben for to seche
 The feithful knowen frend can best be thy leche
 Cum sis ipse nocens moritur cur victima pro te

Stulticia est in morte alterius sperare salutem
The death of bestes that ben vnreasonable
As by custume and right of sacrifice
To purge the is no seth greable
Truste not also to gete thy reppyse
For they that trusten so ben ful vnwyse
By death of bestes god wol not quemed be
And a man a bide stille in his iniquyte
Cum tibi vel sociu vel fidum queris amicum
Non tibi fortuna est hois s; vita petenda
Whan thou woldest chese a frend for trustmesse
Of his fortune make noon inquirance
For fortune is moder of changeablenesse
But aske of his dedes & his gouernance
For that is proued of greater suffisance
Than be of fortune that is casuelle
For lyf of man his fortune doth excell
Vtere quesitis opibus fuge nomen auari
Quid tibi diuicie pfunt si paup habundas
Use wile the richesse that thou hast of quest
Of auarice the wikked fame escheue
Lete not thy good lye ay stopped in thy chest
Kepe not thy tresour & stuf ay closed in melles

Suche oldz tresour Wol make thy shame newe
 What proffitteth plente & gret treasure
 And in pouerte a Breche al Wey to endure
 Si famam feruare cupis dū viuīs honestam
 Tac fugias aīo que sunt mala gaudia vite
 My sone yf thou desire to reioyse thy fame
 In honeste While thou lyuest here
 Escheue thingz that may causen thy shame
 And lichorous lustes must be leyd en here
 And eke thingis fele that ful Joious appere
 Thy Wordes Joye is ofte ful defectif
 The War of Joye that lettith thy good lyf
 Cum sapias aīo noli irridere senectam
 Nam quocūq; sene puerilis sensus in illo est
 And ay my chil'd assay & aduertise
 That thou neuer scorn the gret stouping age
 Thy elder my sone for no thingz thou dispise
 Thaugh al in thaire Wittes they be not so sage
 As in thaire yonth sith age is outrage
 Whan age cometh this is soth certan
 A man begynneth than to be a chil'd agan
 Dīce aliquid nam cū subito fortuna recedit
 Ars remanet vitam qz hōis nō deserit Inquam

Enforce thy Wittes sumwhat for to leue
 Acquente the With cūnyng for it is sure
 Of fortune change & pouerte appere
 Who that is cūnyng is likly to reoure
 Cūnyng & craft remayne euer & endure
 And by theim a man may sone releue
 When fortune hath cast him to mischēse
 Prospiciat cuncta tacitus quod quisq; loquatur
 Sermo hoīm mores celat et iudicat idem
 Be stille in scilence With good aduisednesse
 Tarpe my child til oether haue saide
 So shalt y lerne sumwhat of stedfastnesse
 Lete neuer thy tonge soe mly be vntide
 For that might the of hastnesse abryde
 By man is Word his maner wol be shewde
 By Word eke is knowen y Wise from y lewde
 Exerce stud iū quāuis pœperis artem
 Ut cura ingenū sic et manus adiuuat vsum
 Though of cūnyng thou haue ful gret
 Enforce the ay my child yet to lerne more
 The soule it is that must be thy recit
 Replenisse here With vertues tresour & store
 He maketh maistrise He y cūnyng therfore

Use helpeth art and cure helpith Wit
 Than Use and cure to gedre must be limit
 Multum senturi ne cures tempora fati
 Non metuit mortem qui scit contempnere Vitam
 The body from the soule shal haue disseuerance
 Deth is the ende comune of euery Wight
 Charge not therfore of deth is chance
 The tribut of deth must thou pay of right
 But yet of deth shalt thou set but light
 Of by this lyf thou set right noght expresse
 The Whiche is ay ful of Wo & Wrechednesse
 Disce sed a doctis indoctos ipe doceto
 Propaganda est etenim rez doctrina bona
 Lerne ay of the Wise & teche the Encūnyng
 For it is vertue & at al tyme cōmendable
 To encrese doctrine thurgh suche cōmenyng
 It is eke alwey a dede of god charitable
 Both to lerne & to teche It is ful greable
 Doctrine helpith vertue euermore on lyue
 Whiche ne Were doctne sone from vs Wolde flyue
 Hoc bibe qd possis si tu vis viuere sanus
 Morbi causa mali namqz est quecumqz voluptas
 Drinke not to moche more than thou may lere

Keule Wele ay thy self With þy bridel of mesure
To moche drinke Wol thy body noy & dere
For surfet is euermore of helth vnure
And mesure maketh men in helth endure
What man is reul'd after lustes vile
In good estat he may abide no while
Laudaris quodcuq; palam quodcuq; probaris
Hoc vide ne rursus leuitatis crimine dampnes
And yf it hap the my chil'd in audience
A thing to praise & war that thou not blame
Este a geny right the same in presence
Yf thou dispise comend not eke the same
Of such trauers must nedis ryse shame
To praise now and este to blame expres
It is a signe of gret vnstedfastnes
Tranquillis rebus que sūt aduersa cauetō
Rursus in aduersis melius sperare memento
Whan y lyuest here right at thyn owne ease
In al thy hertis ioye rest and prosperite
Thinke yet parcas that psperte may lese
For wordly welth standeth neuer in sikerte
And as sone whan pouerte or aduersite
Assauteth y yet falle thou neuer in disfaire



Thinke ay in thy self good fortune may repaire
Discere nō cesses cura sapientia crescit
Rara datur longo prudentia temporis usu
It is ful faire my childe to be prudent
And Wise loke that thou lerne fast therfore
To lerne ay my sone do thyn entent
For by cure & besynesse Wisdome is the more
Wisdom is she that may not be forbore
The rare prudence that folkes nyce refuse
Can neuer be had but by processe & use
Paro laudato nam quē tu sepe prokuris
Una dies qualis fuerit monstrabit amicus
Beware also that thou neuer enhance
In thy laude or preising a wight to hye
For thou maist haue cause este to disanance
Thy fame but ay thy preising modefy
For on a day thou shalt ful wele espye
Whether he be frend that frendly semyth
For al be no frendes that men demyth
Ne pudeat que nescieris te velle doceri
Scire aliquid laus est culpa est nil discere velle
Be not a shamed also my childe to lere
That thou canst not for it is but a teache

Of folp noght to desire doctrine to here
For Wele is him that to cūnyng may streache
For cūnyngles a man is but a Breche
Therefore to cūne moche it is right comēdable
And eke neght to cūne it is moost repūable
Cum hūere et hūo lūis est et iuncta voluptas
Quod iustū est aīo complētere s̄ fuge lites
Venus is ay redy to al hire actes vile
Whan that hūchus hath hire in largesse
Thurgh the tresour of hire hēte & feruent fire
Therefore my chil'd thyn appetit thou repressē
In Wynges hēte do thou neuer to greet excessē
Drinke nomore than for the soule is expēdit
Eschēwe strif & ay With mesure be content
Dimissos aīo tactos vitare memento
Quo flumē est placidū forsan latet alciō: Unda
The solem stille mā ofte meneth fraude & gile
Of suche a man eschēwe ay the companye
For the stille man compasseth other While
Within his deccit fals hēde & trecherie
In floodes stille is Water depe andy hye
For often tymes betide Unhappy chance
In streames softe semyng to thy pleasance

Cum tua fortuna reꝝ tibi displicet Vni
Alterius specta quo sis discrimine prior

With thy fortune Whan thou art discontent
Andꝝ canst not take in gre thyn auenture
Beholde aboute andꝝ fele in thyn aduise ment
Howe they þ̄ Whilom Were of goodes more sure
Than thou ⁊ more likly in Welth tendure
Both for houte fauour ⁊ eke noblesse
andꝝ yet sodenly they haue fall into Wreche dresse

Quod potes id tempta nam litus carpe remis

Tucius est multo quā salum tendere in altum

Attempte the thing so as thou maist suffise
Passe neuer thi might here neuer to hve a sayle
For there is perel yf that the streame a ryse
Certen my chil'd this is Withoute faile
Theessel smal is at ful gret a vaile
Whan that With core to longe he may a reche
Whan the sayles hve ful ofte gon to Wreche

Contra hoīem iustum prave contendere noli

Semper em̄ deus iniustas blascitur iras

a gem the trew iust man braule ȳ neuer ne striue
For vnto god a loue that is gret displeasance
Truste this trewly there is noman here on lyue

That to the iust man doth dre or greuance
But at the last god wol take vengeance
Therefore hereof it is reason jche man to take
For yright Wiseman of god is neuer forsake
Exptis opibus noli merere dolendo
Sed gaude potius si te contingat habere
Of extorcion or of any misauenture
Haue plikked at the & made the thredshare
Of richesse yet wthou ay thy force & cure
To be mery & eschewe thought and care
For flitering thought is a foule snare
Come not therein fortune is vinstable
After puerce richesse is preignable
Est iactura grauis que sūt amittere dampnis
Sūt quedam que ferre deet patienter amicū
It is harme thy goodes to for go
That ben in hand With force & violence
But yet my child thou must considere Who
And What he is that doth suche offence
Betwene frend & foe haue ay a differenc
For in sume cas thou aught a frend forlere
And elie suffre him though he noye & dre
Tempora longa tibi noli promittere vite

Quocūq; ingrederis sequitur mors corporis Umbra
Be not sure that thou shalt lyue here longe
A Wight shal dye al be it that he be loth or lesf
And as the old so doth the yong eke amonge
Deth stelith ay on as doth a pryue thef
For a gem deth men may finde no relesf
She is aboute ay to make a final diuorse
And foloweth eche day the shadowe of thy corse
Thure dū placā vitulum siue crescat aratro
Nec credas placare dū dum cede litatur
Worshippe god With all thy puiſſance
With hert entier & swete smell'ng ensence
Suche sacrifice is good to his pleasance
Of the calves smale that neuer did offence
Thaugh thou hem sle the blode may not dispaunce
With y^e lete hem growe & swynke in the plough
Thy trew hert ay to god is suffisaunce is y^e nogh
Cede loamy lesus fortune cede potenti
Ledere qui potuit aliquādo pdesse valebit
Yeue place to hym that excedith thy myght
Thaugh thou be hurt It may pffite par chance
And selde a baileth any man to fight
A gem suche oon that passith his puiſſance

Thaugh al it greue noweste it may a vance
For ofte is sene that after greet duresse
The myghty man is ful of gentillesse
Cum quid peccatis castiga teipse subinde
Vulnera dū sanas dolor est medicina doloris
After thy surfet and thy greet offence
Chastise thy self corraie that is a mys
Redresse y to good reule amēde thy negligēce
And sorowe for synne a herrey medicine is
Repente the sore than art thou sauf I wys
For phisik seith my sone I the ensure
A bitter drinke the sharpe sickness may cure
Dampnatis nūquā post longū tempus amicu
Mutauit mores s; pūgnera prima memento
If y haue founde good friendship in a wight
Longe a goo & yet thaugh he begyn to chāge
Dispeire him not may abide not i oon plight
For sūtime was lordship ther now is grāge
The worldes cours is wondre queint & strāge
But thaugh as now the man is wey vnkinde
Yet is old friendship remembred ay in mynde
Gracior officijs quo sis mage carior esto
Ne nomen fuleas quod dicitur officij perdi

Though it bre the in office to be set
 Than be thou gentil & gracious to other men
 That they may reporte a godly is met
 With office and so good name shal ren
 Aboute of the but assure the lest When
 The officer is vnbounde than scith the prees
 Now Wold to god y this man Were officles
Suspectus caueas ne sis miser omnibus horis
Nam timidis et suspectis aptissima mors est
 Be not suspect that is a Wilked teche
 The suspect man With coward ferfulnesse
 In his liuing is but a kerrey wreche
 Mys is a mys but al he Wold redresse
 He demeth fals and failth hertlinesse
 By fals conceit set in malencolpe
 Sleth hym a noon thus deth and dith his folpe
Cum seruos fueris prius mercatus in usus
Et famulos dicas hoies tamen esse memento
 If thou haue men Witthoute freedom & liberte
 Suche as ben cleped men of bondage
 Notwithstanding they be vnder thy captiuite
 Yet honoure suche & ouer hem be not to outrage
 If they be helde vnder thy wordly seruage

For al they ben bounde yet ferrey men they be
that god hath made theim me yet ay remembre y
Quā primū rapienda tibi est occasio prima
Ne rursus queras que iam neglexeris ante
Thy first fortune receiue With redinesse
Refuse it not though it be skant & smal
It is wel better in gre to take the lesse
Than to refuse it and after faile of al
Nestis of fortune take hem ay as they fal
Refuse hem now & este thou shalt haue nece
Therefore it is to take Whan me pfre & bedde
Morte repentina noli gaudere maloz
Felix obit quoz sine crimine vita
Reioyse the neuer my chil'd in al thy lyp
The soden deth of a cursed man & wreche
Whan he is ded the soule may not relef
From peme to joy the soule may not reche
The fendes holde ay sore that they may keche
Therefore Who y liuyth iustly ful wel doth he
For his soule is ay ful of felicity
Cum cōiūny tibi sit nec res et fama laborat
Vitandū ducas inimicū nomen amici
If thou haue a Wyf in assurance

Truste hire Wel & loue hir in Wardlye
With hert With thought With al thy affiance
Ande be thou neuer infect With suspect Jelosye
If no fault be in hire or that thou can espye
Yet yf thy frend tel the suche is the same
He is a frend ande she no thing to blame
*Cum tibi contigerit studio cognoscere multa
Hac discas multa Vita nescire doctri*

Whan thurgh studie & gret exersise
Thou knowest moche & hast gret cūnyng
Yet ay do thy diligence in the moost & sy Wyse
To purchase mere for it is a holsome thyng
For to gret honnoir cūnyng may the becomyng
Ande eschewe thou neuer daily to be taught
for Withoute teching cūnyng may not be caught

*Miraris verbis iudis me scribere versus
Hec breuitas sensus facit coniungere binos*

If thou aught meruayle or lust to muse
In naked wordes Why my versis thus I write
In no Wyse trewly I may me better excuse
Than sey my Wit so dul is ande vnparfite
Whiche arte th me thus rudely for to endite
By two ande two my metre for to linyt

No thing causeth me but simplenesse of Wit
Nowe I haue gathered floures to your lyst
Tasteth them for they be preseruatyf
Holdeth them fast & kepe hem in your lyst
For the pestilence are Whiche is infectif
I consaile you and I jeopard my lyf
That ye shul lede your lyf in sekernesse
And eke atene to moche Worthinesse
This mene I to you vnder protection
Of your gode grace What tyme ye rede
Or ell haue in this mater inspeccion
As it biddeth that ye wol do in dede
Than dar I afferme Without drede
Ye shul achaeve and be ful vertuous
Here haue I fonde that shal you gypde & lede
Streight to gode fame & leue you in his hous

Explicit Catho . . .

